

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

      DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DRC-01 /052 W

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R 291550Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6322

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 0959

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN TD

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN AND EASTERN OPERATING PERMITS

REF: STATE 85034

1. DIALOGUE AMONGST PAN AMERICAN, ENQXSSY, T&T MINISTRY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, AND CHAIRMAN OF T&T AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY (ATLA) CONTINUED UNTIL LATE FRIDAY APRIL 26 BUT WE WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN WINNING PROVISIONAL APPROVAL FOR PANAM TO INSTITUTE NEW ROUTE CHANGE ON SATURDAY AS PLANNED. ATLA CHAIRMAN (WARNER) PROMISED REPEATEDLY THAT DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING EARLY THIS WEEK, BUT CONTENDED THAT HE COULD NOT TAKE ACTION IN INTERIM.

2. LOCAL PAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE (MCER6) IS STILL CONCERNED THAT DECISION MIGHT BE FURTHER POSTPONED SINCE NO REGULAR MEETING OF ATLA IS SCHEDULED AGAIN UNTIL LATE MAY. HE THEREFORE CONCURS IN FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO GOTT. DCM DISCUSSED ISSUE BRIEFLY FRIDAY EVENING WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (ABDULAH) AND FOUND ABDULAH FULLY COGNIZANT OF ISSUE. ABDULAH INDICATED PROBLEM COMPOUNDED BY ABSENCE FROM TRINIDAD OF SEVERAL KEY MEMEBERS OF ATLA, BUT EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF FACT USG MIGHT HAVE TO GO FORMALLY ON RECORD AT THIS JUNCTURE DUE TO DELAYS.

3. ATLA CHAIRMAN (WARNER) CONTENDED TO DCM EARLIER FRIDAY THAT PAN AMERICAN REQUEST WAS "FAR REACHING" AND CONSTITUTED REQUEST FOR "NEW AUTHORITY" AT TIME WHEN ANY CORRESPONDING DESIRE BY  
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TRINIDAD'S FLAG AIRLINE (BWIA) FOR NEW ROUTE AUTHORITY IN US WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE CONSIDERED FAVORABLY. DCM STRONGLY

CHALLENGED WARNER'S CONTENTIONS REGARDING INTERPRETATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENT.

4. WE CONFIRMED EARLY APRIL 29 WITH EASTERN AIRLINES REGIONAL MANAGER (HINES) UPON HIS RETURN TO PORT OF SPAIN THAT HE BELIEVES ATLA DID RECOMMEND FAVORABLY APRIL 24 CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FREQUENCY FOR EASTERN AND THAT MATTER HAS BEEN SENT TO PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER, HINES STRONGLY URGED EMBASSY WEIGH IN TO SUPPORT EASTERN'S CASE.

5. WE AGREE THAT IT IS USEFUL AT THIS POINT FOR US TO CLARIFY TO GOTT IN WRITING OUR INTERPRETATION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND ITS RELEVANCE TO CURRENT APPLICATIONS BY EASTERN AND PANAM. CONSEQUENTLY, WE HAVE TODAY (APRIL 29) DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY A FORMAL NOTE ALONG LINES OF TEXT CONTAINED IN REFTEL, REFERRING TO BOTH EASTERN AND PAN AMERICAN PROBLEMS BUT DELETING IMPLIED THREAT REGARDING EASTERN WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN FINAL SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH FOUR OF REFTEL. DO NOT BELIEVE SITUATION YET REQUIRES SUCH THREATENING TONE.

6. COMMENT: THERE IS REASONABLE CHANCE NOW FOR FAVORABLE GOTT ACTION THIS WEEK ON BOTH PAN AMERICAN AND EASTERN REQUESTS. WITH REGARD TO PAN AMERICAN, BELIEVE WE ARE FACING A COMBINATION OF REAL CONCERN THAT ROUTE CHANGES REQUESTED DO IN SUBSTANCE SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND RIGHTS GRANTED TO PAN AMERICAN; AND IN LIGHT OF THIS IMPRESSION A REAL RELUCTANCE OF ATLA CHAIRMAN OR MINISTRY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO RENDER A FAVORABLE DECISION WITHOUT FULL PRESENT BACKING OF ATLA MEMBERS SO THAT COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY CAN BE ASSUMED FOR DECISION WHICH COULD CREATE VOCAL CRITICISMS LOCALLY.  
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## Message Attributes

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